



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, March 25, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

### **EL PASO MAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Paul H. Northrop, 62, of El Paso, Texas, was sentenced here on March 24, 2005 to 12 months in prison by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Northrop had been found guilty by a jury on March 23, 2004 of thefts of objects of cultural heritage in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 668, and interstate transportation of stolen goods in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 2384.

The evidence at trial showed that Northrop stole historic documents from both the University of Arizona Library Special Collections and the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, Ariz. The defendant then sold the historic documents to document dealers and other individuals throughout the U.S. Some of the documents the defendant stole related to the military campaigns against Geronimo and other Native Americans in the 1880's. Other documents related to Tombstone in the 1880's. The FBI recovered 55 of the historic documents stolen by Northrop but approximately 50 stolen documents are still missing.

At sentencing, the damage done to the Arizona Historical Society, the University of Arizona Library Special Collections, and to the public as a result of the defendant's crimes was emphasized. Dr. Anne Woosley, Executive Director of the Arizona Historical Society, told the Court that the documents the defendant stole were "one of a kind materials, few of which survive today." She explained that the stolen documents "relate to a culturally and politically turbulent period in the formation of Arizona Territory prior to statehood. Answers to the questions of who we are, how did we get to where we are, what is our story, and what can it teach us are central to the value of these collections." Roger Myers, the Special Collections Librarian and Archivist at the University of Arizona advised the Court that "the items taken cannot be replaced. The loss to our common cultural heritage is permanent." U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton added that "individuals who destroy our heritage are thieves of time. This sentence should provide this defendant with an opportunity to reflect on that loss."

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI. The prosecution was handled by Bob Miskell and Maria Davila, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-746-TUC-JMR

RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-059

###